

**ABSTRACT**

The invention provides a method for producing barium titanate-based particulate compositions. The method includes a heat treatment step, separate from a sintering step, that involves treating a barium titanate-based particulate composition at a temperature between about 700 °C and about 1150 °C to increase average particle size. The increased average particle size can improve the electrical properties (i.e., dielectric constant and dissipation factor) of the heat-treated composition as compared to the composition prior to heat treating. The heat-treated composition may be further processed, for example, by producing a dispersion which may be cast and sintered to form a dielectric layer in electronic components including MLCCs.

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